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Amelia Earhart's Sister Denies Spying Reports

WASHINGTON, June 19 (UPI) — The sister of Amelia Earhart says she believes the flier ran out of fuel and crashed in the Pacific in 1937 and was not on a spy mission.

Muriel Earhart Morrissey spoke Friday at a symposium at the National Air and Space Museum here. She said, "I believe she just ran out of gas and went down off Howland Island."

The meeting honored Miss Earhart's achievement, 50 years ago, in becoming the first woman to fly solo nonstop across the Atlantic and solo nonstop across the United States.

In a 1937 attempt to fly around the world at the Equator, Miss Earhart and a navigator, Fred Noonan, disappeared. There have been reports she was on an intelligence mission over Japanese-held islands and was shot down or taken prisoner.

"As far as I'm concerned she was not on a spy mission," Mrs. Morrissey said. "She wanted to be the first woman to fly around the world. She wouldn't have been dishonest with the people who put up the money."